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THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE IN JAPAN.

ADDENDA.

The article in our last four numbers, entitled "The Administration of Justice in Japan," by Professor John H. Wigmore, owing to his absence in Europe, was not submitted to him in proof before printing; and, since the date of its presentation to the Columbian Exposition Congress, events in Japan have made necessary some additional lines noting the recent changes in the international situation.

The chief purpose of the article was to demonstrate Japan's fitness for the abolition of the extra-territoriality imposed by the treaties of forty years ago and for the resumption of her judicial autonomy. Since the date of the paper this result has been substantially accomplished by the negotiation of new treaties with the great Occidental powers. England broke the path, just as the Chino-Japanese war opened, by a treaty signed July 16, 1894; the United States followed (but too late to gain the credit of priority in good deeds) on November 16, 1894; then successively Russia, Germany, Sweden-Norway, and Italy; in France the Senate now has a new treaty before it. Under all these treaties, consular jurisdiction is brought to an end on July 16, 1899, and judicial autonomy is then restored; the American treaty is to continue in force for twelve years from that date, with an option for either party of rescission after twelve month's notice; but of course the denunciation of the treaty would not restore extra-territorial consular jurisdiction, which is forever swept away.

The new Civil Code of Japan, described in the article in question, was to have gone into force January 1, 1893; but the Parliament postponed its operation for five years, mainly in order to bring its provisions of family law and inheritance into greater harmony with Japanese traditions. At present there are in force large portions of the revised Civil and Commercial Codes, as well as a revised Criminal Code. The entire system is expected to be in operation before July 17, 1899, the date for the extension of Japanese jurisdiction over foreigners.